

The very air you breathe is refined and the manners of the people dignified. A cultured American will find Washington both an entertaining and instructive city. Civilization has spread over it its mantle of gentleness and refinement.

Still, for wealth of artistic treasures and public adornments, it figures on the second rank after Rome, Florence, Venice, Paris, Vienna, Berlin and Munich. It would be considered in Europe a first-class provincial City, next to the capital.

The first impression I had of the City was by no means a favorable one. I was literally dumb for five minutes to find myself in an old miserable, tottering shack called a depot. After a long and tedious journey I was feeling the sting of hunger and was prepared to take a hearty luncheon when, to my great surprise, no trace of a lunch-room or a restaurant was to be seen in the depot. It was in the middle of the night and all the restaurants around were closed. I thought I would stand philosophically the present disappointment and forget all the miseries of human life in the fragrant smoke of a good Havana when, all at once, I saw the following drastic inscription on the antiquated walls: "Smoking positively prohibited."

Great God! Where are we? Is this China or Sandwich Islands that we cannot eat to save our life or even enjoy an innocent smoke? Shades of Washington! Thy grand-children have forgotten thee and damned thy name to eternal oblivion. Such an old ante-diluvian dog-house to receive thy guests and therein the fanatical ghosts of puritan prejudices to chill their souls to freezing temperature! The venerable depot of legendary renown in Kansas City is an Oriental palace compared with this chicken-coop.

Thirty-three winters have already passed over our gray hairs and given us the sense of patience and equanimity. We therefore, spent in quiet, deep recollection the remainder of the night and were told in the morning that the prehistoric shack is going to pass into immortality, to be replaced by the most beautiful and largest depot in the world, of course; superlatives cost nothing and they dispense you from studying and comparing. If, however, the citizens of Washington